

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 19, 2005. Claims 1-13, 15-20, 22 and 25-30 are in the application, all of which have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. It should be noted that the changes made are to clarify what Applicants already were claiming. Claims 1, 13, 25, 26 and 30 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 4, 5, 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Those latter claims have not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, their base claims are believed to be allowable.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6-13, 15, 18-20, 22 and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,767,876 (Koike et al.).

The general nature of the present invention has been adequately discussed in previous papers, as has *Koike*, and it is not believed to be necessary to repeat that discussion in full.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a color ink-jet recording apparatus using a black recording head that ejects black ink on the basis of black image data and color recording heads that eject color ink on the basis of color image data. The color ink is such that it permeates through a recording medium at a higher speed than the black ink, and the apparatus completes a record image in a predetermined recording area including pixels on the recording medium by causing the black recording head and the respective color

recording heads each to perform a plurality of recording scans in the same pixel. The apparatus comprises data generating means, which, for each of the plurality of recording heads, uses mask patterns to generate image data for each of the recording scans corresponding to the predetermined recording area, so that black image data corresponding to the predetermined recording area is allotted to each of the recording scans, and color image data corresponding to the predetermined recording area is allotted to each of the recording scans. According to Claim 1, each of the mask patterns for the black image data and color image data used during the same recording scan has different allotment rates.

Thus, among other important features of an apparatus according to Claim 1 is that each recording head (the black recording head and each of the color recording heads) scans a plurality of times of scan in the same pixel of a predetermined area.

In contrast, with the apparatus of *Koike*, the black, cyan, magenta and yellow print heads each scan only one time in any given pixel. (This is made clear in the description at col. 23, line 21, through col. 25, line 12; the description of the following specific examples is similar in respect of this point.) Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over *Koike*.

Each of the other independent claims is similar to Claim 1 in respect of the feature discussed above, and each is therefore allowable over *Koike* for at least the reason stated above.

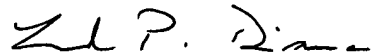
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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